

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 151430Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9108
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1766

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, LT
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN TO VISIT MAPUTO

REF: A. MASERU 1180, B. MASERU 1236,

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIMIN LEABUA JONATHAN WILL VISIT MOZAMBIQUE AUGUST 23-28. HE WILL MAKE SEVERAL SPEECHES AND REPORTEDLY WILL SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT AND DISCUSS OTHER POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. GOL HOPES TO CLARIFY MOZAMBIQUE POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES INCLUDING GOM POSITION ON POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN USE OF MOZAMBIQUE AS BASE OF OPERATIONS, WHICH WOULD CAUSE CONCERN HERE. SEE ALSO COMMENT PARA 4. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS INFORMED CHARGE THAT PRIMIN JONATHAN WILL VISIT MOZAMBIQUE AUGUST 23-28. HE WILL ADDRESS TWO MASS RALLIES AND SPEAK AT TWO DINNER. PRIMIN AND PARTY WILL ALSO TRAVEL TO BEIRA. FOREIGN MINISTER C. D. MOLAPO, PERMANENT SECRETARY T. MASHOLOGU, AFRICA DESK OFFICER T. SEKANTSI, FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEGAL OFFICER AND PROTOCOL OFFICER WILL ACCOMPANY. DOUBTLESS
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OTHER OFFICIALS FROM PRIMIN'S OFFICE AND POSSIBLY OTHER CABINET MEMBER (S) WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRIMIN.

3. PERMANENT SECRETARY MASHOLOGU TOLD CHARGE THAT LESOTHO GOVT WANTS TO SIZE UP POSITION OF MOZAMBIQUE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES IN GENERAL INCLUDING DEGREE TO WHICH GOM MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ALLOW CUBANS TO USE MOZAMBIQUE AS BASE OF OPERATIONS. MASHOLOGU

SAID GOL DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT CUBANS MOVING INTO SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM AREAS THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY " SUCH AS ANGOLA". IN REPLY TO CHARGE'S QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE CONTACT WITH CUBAN REPS IN MAPUTO, MASHOLOGU SAID NO RPT NO REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM CUBANS FOR SUCH CONTACT AND THAT, WHILE IT WAS CONCEIVABLE, HE DID NOT SEE HOW IT POSSIBLY COULD BE FITTED INTO THE ALREADY CROWDED PROGRAM.

4. MASHOLOGU SAID GOL WILL SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT WITH GOM DURING VISIT AND DISCUSS THE LONG-BRUITED AIR LINK AS WELL AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPORTATION OF MOZAMBIQUE-REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INTO LESOTHO IN EVENT OF OIL EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA. QUERIED ON THIS POINT, HE SAID GOL HAS AGREEMENT OF OPEC TO SUPPLY OIL AND AGREEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT NOT TO INTERFERE IN ANY SUCH FUTURE OPERATION. HE DID NOT ADDRESS HIMSELF TO QUESTION OF WHETHER MOZAMBIQUE HAS THE CAPABILITY OF OPERATING ITS REFINERY.

5. ACCORDING TO MASHOLOGU, LESOTHO DELEGATION WILL ALSO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING A COMMON FRONT ON MIGRANT LABOR BUT HE DID NOT ENLARGE ON THIS POINT.

6. COMMENT: MASHOLOGU WAS CERTAINLY VOICING THE OFFICIAL GOL POSITION ON CUBAN INTERVENTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT IT SOUNDED STRANGE COMING FROM ONE WHO HAS THE REPUTATION OF FAVORING DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST GOVTS AND ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT CUBAN VISITS HERE (REF A
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AND B). TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD BE PERHAPS NATURAL FIRST STEP TOWARDS AIR LINK AND POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES. LESOTHO REPORTEDLY PROVIDED A SMALL QUANTITY OF WHITE BEANS TO MOZAMBIQUE DURING THE LATTER'S FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE. POL SUPPLY TO LESOTHO THROUGH AN EVENTUAL OIL EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA AND REGULAR TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS UNLIKELY TO MEAN MUCH WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WITH REGARD TO A COMMON FRONT ON MIGRANT LABOR, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE AIM MAY BE TO UNITE TO DEMAND BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS, HEALTH CHECK-UPS, ETC. FOR MINE WORKERS,⁸
STOKES

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